

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. In response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement set forth in the April 26, 2007 Office Action, Applicants provisionally elect for prosecution with traverse, Group I, including claims 1-20.¹

As set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent or distinct inventions.

While the inventions of Groups I and II may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination will not present an undue burden, much less any burden. Applicants respectfully submit that any distinctions between the Groups can be simultaneously searched and examined without serious burden.

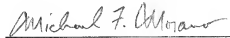
Under such circumstances, the Examiner is encouraged to maintain all claims in the same application (See M.P.E.P. § 803).

¹ Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that Group I includes claims 1-19, and Group II includes claims 21-29. Applicants have taken the omission of claim 20 from Group I as a typographical error since claim 20 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants have elected claims 1-20.

An early and favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 25, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael F. Morano", is written over a horizontal line.

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